



STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA

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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia in Geneva

Fourth Session of the Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibition of Certain Conventional Weapons (Geneva, 14 November 2011)

Mr. President,

Allow me first to congratulate you for appointment as a president of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibition of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). We are satisfied to see a representative of Bulgaria at the helm of this session of the Review Conference. We welcome your efforts during the preparations of this session and are confident that you will wisely guide our proceedings in order to successfully conclude this session of the Review Conference.

Mr. President

It is true that prime task of the States Parties is to review implementation of the Convention in the period of last 5 years. In general, we are satisfied with the state of the Convention. New states parties have been joining the CCW and we are steadily heading towards universalisation. The Convention is still an important instrument in the field of international humanitarian law, though it seems to come at the crossroads.

Slovenia is satisfied with the CCW Sponsorship Programme that enables a number of countries to participate at the CCW meetings.

Mr. President,

At this session of the Review Conference, we need to make an important decision regarding the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts that has been negotiating a draft text of the Protocol VI on Cluster Munitions in the course of last four years. In this context, Slovenia welcomes the statement delivered by Austria on behalf of group of countries earlier today.

We estimate that currently there is no consensus on a draft Protocol VI. We think that the chair's text does not adequately respond to the humanitarian impact of the use of cluster munitions as demanded by the mandate of the GGE. Slovenia shares the fundamental humanitarian and legal concerns regarding the Chair's text as expressed by the ICRC, UN organisations, civil society and a number of States Parties to the CCW.

Mr. President,

Slovenia firmly believes that this session offers an opportunity to continue and finalize negotiations on the draft text of the protocol. In the course of next two weeks we can

manage to improve the text of the draft, notably in the articles 4, 5, and 7 on the year 1980 as limit between prohibition or limitation, transitional period, that should be shortened and the prohibition of transfers, where we seek immediate prohibition of all transfers:

We welcome all national steps in order to address the problem of cluster munitions by states not yet parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We encourage them to accede to this Convention as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

We fully trust you that you with assistance of the chair of the GGE Mr. Domingo, will do your utmost to successfully finalize these negotiations. We believe that this effort is worth of our efforts in order to conclude such a protocol that will complement existing international law on one hand and adequately address humanitarian impact of cluster munitions on the other hand.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.